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THE PENNSYLVANIA DUTCHMAN, AND WHEREIN HE HAS EXCELLED.

BY HON. SAMUEL W. PENNYPACKER, LL.D.

The following article has purposely been put in definite and succinct phraseology. It is possible that some of the statements may be modified by subsequently ascertained facts, but the effect of the paper cannot be overthrown by mere generalities. If ever Pennsylvania shall receive due credit for her unequalled influence and achievement, it will be when her writers and talkers—historical, literary, and political—shall cease their efforts to belittle that accomplishment in which they think they and theirs have had no part. A wider knowledge of themselves and their antecedents may also disclose a nearer relation to events of importance in her history, due to the Pennsylvania Dutchman, than they at present recognize.

1. In 1615 Hendrickson, a Dutchman, first sailed up the Zuydt River and saw the site of Philadelphia.

2. In 1662 Pieter Cornelius Plockhoy, who subsequently died at Germantown, laid the foundation of our literature and history by publishing the first book by a resident concerning the country bordering on the Zuydt River, later the Delaware.

3. In 1688 Francis Daniel Pastorius, Dirck op den Graeff, Abraham op den Graeff, and Gerhard Hendricks, by a public protest, made the first effort in America to overthrow the institution of slavery.

4. In 1690 William Rittenhouse built the first paper-mill in America on a branch of the Wissahickon Creek.

5. In 1692 Francis Daniel Pastorius published his "Four Treatises," the earliest original American scientific work.

6. Among the immigrants to Pennsylvania prior to the

Revolution were only two of the European nobility, Count Zinzendorf, of Bethlehem, and Baron Stiegel, of Manheim.

7. "The town of Lancaster, a place at that time [1750] remarkable for its wealth, and which had the reputation of possessing the best and most intelligent society in America. It was chiefly inhabited by Germans, who, of all people in the practice of emigrating, carry along with them the greatest stock of knowledge and accomplishments."[1]

8. The most eminent scholars among the early emigrants to America were Francis Daniel Pastorius, who wrote fluently in eight languages, and Henry Bernhard Koster, who had translated the Bible from the Septuagint Greek version, both of Germantown.

9. On the 24th of September, 1734, the Schwenkfelders established their Gedächtniss Tag, or Memorial day, to commemorate their escape from persecution, and they have observed it ever since, an event without parallel.

10. In 1743 Christopher Saur published his quarto Bible, the first in a European language in America. The Bible was published three times in German in America before it appeared in English.

11. In 1744 Saur published his first Testament. The Testament was printed seven times in German in America before it appeared in English.

12. In 1764 Saur began the publication of the "Geistliches Magazien," the first religious magazine in America.

13. Saur was the earliest type-founder in America.

14. In 1814 the Bible was first published west of the Alleghanies by Frederick Goeb, of Somerset, in German.

15. In 1749 was published at Ephrata, Van Braght's "Martyrer Spiegel," historical, biographical, and theological, the most extensive literary production of the colonies.

16. The earliest original American essay upon music is the preface to the "Turtel Taube," printed at Ephrata in 1747.

17. The earliest American work upon pedagogy was the

[1] John Galt's "Life of West," 1816, p. 47.

Schul Ordnung, written by Christopher Dock in 1754 and printed in 1770.

18. The earliest American essay upon etiquette was Dock's "Hundert Sitten Regeln," published in 1764.

19. The earliest American bibliography was the catalogue of the works of the Schwenkfelders.

20. The first contribution of real estate to the Pennsylvania Hospital was made by Matthias Koplin, of Perkiomen.

21. The first approximately accurate calculation of the distance of the sun from the earth was made by David Rittenhouse in 1769. Of him Thomas Jefferson said, "He has not, indeed, made a world, but he has approached nearer its maker than any man who has lived from the creation to this day."

22. The first Continental treasurer was Michael Hillegas.

23. The president of the First National Congress was Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg.

24. The first force to reach George Washington after he assumed command at Cambridge, in 1775, was a company from York County, Pennsylvania, under Lieutenant Henry Miller, which had marched over five hundred miles.

25. The first force to reach Abraham Lincoln at Washington in 1861 was composed of five companies from Reading, Allentown, Pottsville, and Lewistown.

26. George Washington was first called the "Father of his Country" in a German almanac printed at Lancaster in 1779.

27. "The schools for young men and women at Bethlehem and Nazareth, under the direction of the people called Moravians, are upon the best establishment of any schools in America."[1]

28. The earliest American book on entomology was published by Frederick V. Melsheimer, at Hanover, York County, Pennsylvania, in 1806. Thomas Say calls him "The parent of entomology in this country."

29. "The first premium for excellency in printing was adjudged by the Pennsylvania Manufacturing Society to the

[1] Payne's "Universal Geography," 1798.

publishers of a book in the German language in the inland town of Lancaster."[1]

30. The richest agricultural county in the United States, according to the returns of the last census, is Lancaster County in Pennsylvania.

31. The Wistar parties, the best known of early social events in Philadelphia, were established by Dr. Caspar Wistar.

32. Simon Snyder, Joseph Hiester, John Andrew Shulze, George Wolf, Joseph Ritner, Francis Rahn Shunk, William Bigler, John F. Hartranft, and James A. Beaver have been Governors of Pennsylvania.

33. Of the two largest telescopes in the world that in California was erected by James Lick, of Lebanon, Pa., and that in Chicago, by Charles T. Yerkes, of Philadelphia.

34. Leidy in science, Gross in surgery, Pepper in medicine, and Cramp in ship-building have reached the highest rank.

35. As a merchant, no American has ever surpassed John Wanamaker.

36. The Germans "have schools and meeting-houses in almost every township through the province, and have more magnificent churches and other places of worship in the city of Philadelphia itself than those of all other persuasions added together."[2]

37. The earliest Pennsylvania history of the Revolution was written by Colonel Bernard Hubley, and published at Northumberland in 1806.

38. The earliest original Pennsylvania school-book was the primer of Francis Daniel Pastorius, published in 1698.

39. Our knowledge of the language, manners, and customs of the aborigines of Pennsylvania is mainly due to the Moravians, Zeisberger and Heckewelder.

40. From 1732 to 1760 our relations with the Indians were conducted by Conrad Weiser.

41. The savages who defeated the Englishman Braddock

[1] Tench Coxe's "View of the United States," 1794.

[2] Answer to an invidious pamphlet, 1755, p. 73.

in 1755 were overthrown by the Swiss-German Bouquet in 1764.

42. On the 17th of Ninth month, 1686, before the Provincial Council "The Petition of Abraham op den Graeff was read for ye Gov'rs promise to him should make the first and finest pece of linnen cloath."[1]

43. Before the Revolutionary War there were more newspapers printed in German in Pennsylvania than in English.

44. The earliest effort in Pennsylvania in behalf of the adoption of the Federal Constitution was a petition from two hundred and fifty of the residents of Germantown.[2]

45. Of the nineteen members of the Pennsylvania Assembly who voted against the submission of that Constitution to a vote of the people, not one was a German, and of the forty-three who voted in favor of it, twelve were Germans.[3]

46. When Whittier wrote,—

> "Thank God for the token! one lip is still free—
> One spirit untrammel'd—unbending one knee!
> Like the oak of the mountain, deep-rooted and firm,
> Erect, when the multitude bends to the storm;
> When traitors to Freedom, and Honor and God,
> Are bow'd at an Idol polluted with blood;
> When the recreant North has forgotten her trust,
> And the lip of her honor is low in the dust,—
> Thank God, that one man from the shackle has broken!
> Thank God, that one man as a *freeman*, has spoken!"

he referred to Governor Joseph Ritner, of Pennsylvania.

47. Whittier's Pennsylvania Pilgrim was Francis Daniel Pastorius.

48. When Thomas Buchanan Read wrote,—

> "Then from his patriot tongue of flame
> The startling words of freedom came.
> The stirring sentences he spake
> Compelled the heart to glow or quake,

[1] "Colonial Records," Vol. I. p. 193.
[2] Lloyd's "Debates," Vol. I. p. 84.
[3] Ibid., p. 135.

And rising on his theme's broad wing,
And grasping in his nervous hand
The imaginary battle-brand,
In face of death he dared to fling
Defiance to a tyrant king,"

he referred to General Peter Muhlenberg.